

Approaching research for film and for academic contexts

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Research for a documentary film requires a particular set of qualities and then research in an academic environment requires another set of qualities. Sometimes it can be really exhilarating like in a Venn diagram there's a kind of overlap of where doing things well they can work both to serve a film and to the academic enquiry around the film. So academic life can offer a particular kind of rigour a depth, ability to reflect and research in film production can offer something that's very swift, able to respond to individuals, real people, the way that things are unfolding in the world, using a language which is journalistic, accessible, open, about how real people are relating to things. It doesn't have to be translated in what some can find an obscure or esoteric form of academic writing, always looking for the benefits of both. Each side has its beauty and also areas where it can be lacking.